

REMARKS

Claims 38-46 are allowed. Claims 16-22, and 24-25 are cancelled. Applicants reserve their right to pursue these claims in further continuation applications. No new matter has been added herewith.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 16-18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ripich (US 2,479,641), hereinafter "Ripich." More specifically, the Office Action states that Ripich teaches a receptacle comprising a base (3) and side walls (2) forming a melting zone cavity. Thus, according to the Office Action, the indentation (113) forms a collecting cavity.

Without acquiescing to the correctness of this analysis of the claim language, Applicants have cancelled Claims 16-18, 20 and 22, rendering the rejection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 22, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ripich in view of Nebel '008. More specifically, the Office Action states that Ripich differs from the instantly claimed invention in that there is no disclosure of 1) two pouring spouts and 2) a method step wherein the receptacle is turned in a first direction to collect molten lead and turned in a second direction to pour off slag. However, the Office Action states that Nebel provides the missing disclosure.

Without acquiescing to the correctness of this analysis of the claim language, Applicants have cancelled Claims 22, 24 and 25, rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

The Examiner stated that Claims 38-46 are allowed. Thus, Applicants believe that the current amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions which might result in a delay in allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 26 July 2005

By: Karoline A. Delaney
Karoline A. Delaney
Registration No. 44,058
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

1814008
071305